

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended): A device, for preventing laces coming undone arranged to be placed on a shoe and to cover a lace of said shoe, in the form of a band having a length and a width, said length being greater in size than said width, said width being smaller than the length of the shoe, comprising:

- a left-hand end and a right-hand end, each comprising mutual fixing means,
- means for fixing said band to said shoe, and
- a central flat part comprising a series of orifices for the lace to pass through, said band presenting

an open position where the length of the device is disposed perpendicular to an axial direction of said shoe, when said device is placed on said shoe,

a closed position wherein the length of the left-hand end and the right-hand end are folded in an overlapping position one onto each other to form a sheath that is fixed to said shoe by said mutual fixing means, and wherein the band only partially covers the loops of the knot of said lace when the lace is knotted by the sheath, which has a perimeter smaller than said length of the band, and

a fixed position where the device is attached to the shoe through the central flat part, said fixed position being reachable when the band is in the open position and in the closed position;

wherein the device has a length which is between 5 cm and 10 cm, and a width which is between 1 cm and 5 cm.

14. (previously presented): The device for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that the mutual fixing means for fixing the left-hand side of the device to the right-hand side are mutual self-gripping means.

15. (previously presented): The device for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that the series of orifices comprises several orifices for the lace to pass.

16. (previously presented): The device for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that at least one of the orifices for the lace to pass in the series is in the form of a slit.

17. (previously presented): The device for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that it comprises a series of lace passage orifices comprising two orifices in the form of a slit and two substantially circular orifices, said slits being situated one above the other parallel to a long side of the said device for preventing laces coming undone, the two substantially circular orifices being situated in particular on each side of the two slits with respect to the said long side of the said device .

18. (previously presented): The device for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that the device comprises a repetition of patterns of the orifices, said patterns being situated one above the other parallel to a long side of said device.

19. (currently amended): The device for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that ~~it has a length which is between 5 cm and 10 cm and is more particularly the length is approximately 6.5 cm, and the a-width which is between 1 cm and 5 cm and is preferably is between approximately 2 cm and approximately 4.5 cm.~~

20. (previously presented): The device for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that the said band is formed by a piece made from leather, textile, flexible plastics material, articulated metal or any material that is deformable in order to bring the band into its closed position.

21. (previously presented): The device for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that the said means of fixing the said device to the shoe consist partly of the said lace.

22. (previously presented): An assembly, comprising

- the device for preventing the laces coming undone according to claim 13, and
- a shoe , comprising a rectangular-shaped tongue and a lace,

characterised in that the device for preventing laces coming undone is an integral part of the tongue of the shoe.

23. and 24. (canceled).

25. (previously presented): In combination:

a shoe; and

a device for preventing laces coming undone arranged to be placed on a shoe and to cover a lace of said shoe, in the form of a band having a length and a width, said length being greater in size than said width, said width being smaller than the length of the shoe, the device comprising:

- a left-hand end and a right-hand end, each comprising mutual fixing means,
 - means for fixing said band to said shoe, and
 - a central flat part comprising a series of orifices for the lace to pass through,
- said band presenting

an open position where the length of the device is disposed perpendicular to an axial direction of said shoe, when said device is placed on said shoe,

a closed position wherein the length of the left-hand end and the right-hand end are folded in an overlapping position one onto each other to form a sheath that is fixed to said shoe by said mutual fixing means, and wherein the band only partially covers the loops of the knot of said lace when the lace is knotted by the sheath, which has a perimeter smaller than said length of the band, and

a fixed position where the device is attached to the shoe through the central flat part, said fixed position being reachable when the band is in the open position and in the closed position.